

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image information obtaining method in which an image information receiving end selects a desired image file according to information about directories presented by an image information transmitting end and receives an image of the selected image file, wherein:

the image information transmitting end classifies a plurality of images recorded in a recording medium under parameters that represent properties of the plurality of images, produces directories to register image files or file names of the classified images in for each parameter and registers the file names required; and

the image information receiving end selects a desired image file of a desired parameter according to the information about the produced directories and receives an image of the selected desired image file of the desired parameter from the image information transmitting end.

2. The image information obtaining method as defined in claim 1, wherein the plurality of images include an original image and a converted image produced from the original image by changing a parameter representing a property of the original image.

3. The image information obtaining method as defined in claim 2, wherein the image information transmitting end produces the converted image from the original image recorded in the recording medium by changing the parameter and registers the converted image or a file name of the converted image in the produced directory.

4. The image information obtaining method as defined in claim 2, wherein the image information transmitting end transmits the converted image produced

from the original image by changing the parameter if an image file of an image whose parameter is different from the parameter of the original image is accessed from the image information receiving end.

5. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 2, 3 and 4, wherein the image information transmitting end does not register an image file whose image data amount is not less than an image data amount of an original image file or a file name of the image file in the directories constructed for each parameter.

6. The image information obtaining method as defined in claim 2, wherein the image information transmitting end has a plurality of images whose parameters representing properties of the plurality of images are different in one image file of the original image, and transmits, if an image file with the same parameter as that of an image among the plurality of images in the image file of the original image is accessed from the image information receiving end, an image with the corresponding parameter among the plurality of images in the image file of the original image.

7. The image information obtaining method as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein the parameters representing the properties of the images are at least one of a number of pixels, compression rate, sampling method and color information.

8. An image information obtaining method in which an image information receiving end selects a property file to register property information of a desired image file in according to information about directories presented by an image information transmitting end and receives information of the selected property file, wherein:

the image information transmitting end produces directories to register property files or property file names of image files recorded in a recording medium in and registers the property file names required; and

the image information receiving end selects a desired property file according to the information about the produced directories and receives information of the selected desired property file from the image information transmitting end.

9. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the directories are pass names or holders to which the image files or the property files belong.

10. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the image information receiving end displays at least one of an image file name, an image directory name, a property file name, a property directory name, a pass name of the image file and a pass name of the property file according to the information about the directories presented by the image information transmitting apparatus.

11. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the image information receiving end displays the information about the directories in tree representation according to the information about the directories presented by the image information transmitting end.

12. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the image information receiving end transmits and receives information to and from a communication apparatus other than the image information transmitting end through a public circuit or a communication

network, and transmits the received image of the desired image file or the received information of the property file to the communication apparatus.

13. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the image information transmitting end images a subject and records image data acquired by the imaging.

14. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the transmission and reception of the information comprises at least one of the steps of:

connecting the image information transmitting end and the image information receiving end that transmit and receive the information with a cable and transmitting and receiving the information by wire communication by converting the information into electric signals or light signals; and

transmitting and receiving the information by radio communication by converting the information into electric signals or light signals.

15. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the image information receiving end is capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from a communication apparatus other than the image information transmitting apparatus through the public circuit or the communication network and transmitting and receiving speech signals.

16. The image information obtaining method as defined in any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, wherein the image information transmitting end sets a power-conservation mode in which power consumption of the image information transmitting end is reduced, and the image information transmitting end cancels

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the power-conservation mode when the image information transmitting end receives information from the image information receiving end while the power-conservation mode is set.

17. An image information transmitting apparatus comprising:

a directory producing device which classifies a plurality of images recorded in a recording medium under parameters that represent properties of the plurality of images, producing directories to register image files or file names of the classified images in for each parameter and registering the file names required;

a communicating device capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from an image information receiving apparatus; and

an information processing device which transmits, if the image information receiving apparatus asks for an offer of any image file produced by the directory producing device through the communicating device, an image of the image file to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device.

18. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising a converted image producing device which produces a converted image from an original image recorded in the recording medium by changing a parameter representing a property of the original image.

19. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in claim 18, wherein the information processing device produces the converted image from the original image recorded in the recording medium by changing the parameter and registers the converted image or a file name of the converted image in the produced directory.

20. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in claim 18, wherein the information processing device transmits the converted image produced from the original image recorded in the recording medium by changing the parameter to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device if an image file of an image whose parameter is different from the parameter of the original image is accessed from the image information receiving apparatus.

21. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the directory producing device does not register an image file whose image data amount is not less than an image data amount of an original image file or a file name of the image file in the directories constructed for each parameter.

22. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in claim 18, wherein:

a plurality of images whose parameters representing properties of the plurality of images are different in one image file of the original image in the recording medium; and

if the image information receiving apparatus asks for an offer of an image file with the same parameter as that of an image among the plurality of images in the image file of the original image through the communicating device, the information processing device transmits an image with the corresponding parameter among the plurality of images in the image file of the original image to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device.

23. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in claim 17 or 18, wherein the directory producing device classifies the directories under

parameters representing at least one of properties of the images that are a number of pixels, compression rate, sampling method and color information and produce the directories.

24. An image information transmitting apparatus comprising:

a directory producing device which produces directories to register property files or property file names of image files recorded in a recording medium in and registering the property file names required;

a communicating device capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from an image information receiving apparatus; and

an information processing device which transmits, if the image information receiving apparatus asks for an offer of any property file produced by the directory producing device through the communicating device, information about the property file to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device.

25. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in any one of claims 17, 18 and 24, wherein the directory producing device produces pass names or holders to which the image files or the property files belong.

26. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in any one of claims 17, 18 and 24, wherein:

the image information transmitting apparatus is one of a camera and a scanner having an imaging device which images a subject image; and

the information processing device records image data acquired by the imaging to the recording medium.

27. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in any one of

claims 17, 18 and 24, wherein the communicating device is one of a wire communicating device with a cable and a wireless communicating device using carrier waves of radio waves or lights which connect the image information transmitting apparatus and the image information receiving apparatus that transmit and receive the information.

28. The image information transmitting apparatus as defined in any one of claims 17, 18 and 24, further comprising a power-conservation mode setting device which sets a power-conservation mode in which power consumption of the image information transmitting apparatus is reduced, the power-conservation mode setting device canceling the power-conservation mode when the communicating device receives information from the image information receiving apparatus while the power-conservation mode is set.

29. An image information transmitting system comprising:
 an image information transmitting apparatus comprising,
 a directory producing device which classifies a plurality of images recorded in a recording medium under parameters that represent properties of the plurality of images, produces directories to register image files or file names of the classified images in for each parameter and registers the file names required,
 a communicating device capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from an image information receiving apparatus, and
 an information processing device which presents information about the produced directories to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device and transmits, if the image information receiving apparatus asks for an offer of any image file among the presented image files through the communicating device, an image of the image file to the

image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device; and
the image information receiving apparatus comprising,

a first communicating device capable of transmitting and
receiving information to and from the image information transmitting apparatus,

a display which displays the information about the produced
directories presented by the image information transmitting apparatus, and

a designating device which designates a desired image file of a
desired parameter according to the displayed information about the directories.

30. The image information transmitting system as defined in claim 29,
further comprising a converted image producing device which produces a
converted image from an original image recorded in the recording medium by
changing a parameter representing a property of the original image.

31. The image information transmitting system as defined in claim 30,
wherein the information processing device registers the converted image or a file
name of the converted image in the produced directory.

32. The image information transmitting system as defined in claim 30,
wherein the information processing device transmits the converted image from
the original image recorded in the recording medium by changing the parameter
to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device
if an image file of an image whose parameter is different from the parameter of
the original image is accessed from the image information receiving apparatus.

33. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of
claims 30, 31 and 32, wherein the directory producing device does not register an
image file whose image data amount is not less than an image data amount of an

original image file or a file name of the image file in the directories constructed for each parameter.

34. The image information transmitting system as defined in claim 30, wherein:

a plurality of images whose parameters representing properties of the plurality of images are different in one image file of the original image in the recording medium; and

if the image information receiving apparatus asks for an offer of an image file with the same parameter as that of an image among the plurality of images in the image file of the original image through the communicating device, the information processing device transmits an image with the corresponding among the plurality of images in the image file of the original image to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device.

35. The image information transmitting system as defined in claim 29 or 30, wherein the directory producing device classifies the directories under parameters representing at least one of properties of the images that are a number of pixels, compression rate, sampling method and color information and produce the directories.

36. An image information transmitting system comprising:

an image information transmitting apparatus comprising,

a directory producing device which produces directories to register property files or property file names of image files recorded in a recording medium in and registering the property file names required,

a communicating device capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from an image information receiving apparatus, and

an information processing device which presents information about the produced directories to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device and transmits, if the image information receiving apparatus asks for an offer of any property file among the presented property files through the communicating device, information about the property file to the image information receiving apparatus through the communicating device; and

the image information receiving apparatus comprising,

a first communicating device capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from the image information transmitting apparatus,

a display which displays the information about the produced directories presented by the image information transmitting apparatus, and

a designating device which designates a desired property file of a desired parameter according to the displayed information about the directories.

37. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, wherein the directory producing device produces pass names or holders to which the image files or the property files belong.

38. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, wherein the display displays at least one of an image file name, an image directory name, a property file name, a property directory name, a pass name of the image file and a pass name of the property file according to the information about the directories presented by the image information transmitting apparatus.

39. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, wherein the display displays the information about the

directories in tree representation according to the information about the directories presented by the image information transmitting apparatus.

40. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, wherein the image information receiving apparatus further comprises a second communicating device capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from a communication apparatus other than the image information transmitting apparatus through a public circuit or a communication network, the second communicating device transmitting the received image of the desired image file or the received information of the property file to the communication apparatus.

41. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, wherein:

the image information transmitting apparatus is one of a camera and a scanner having an imaging device which images a subject; and

the information processing device records image data acquired by the imaging to the recording medium.

42. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, wherein the communicating device is one of a wire communicating device with a cable and a wireless communicating device using carrier waves of radio waves or lights which connect the image information transmitting apparatus and the image information receiving apparatus that transmit and receive the information.

43. The image information transmitting system as defined in claim 40, wherein the second communicating device is capable of transmitting and

receiving information to and from a communication apparatus other than the image information transmitting apparatus through the public circuit or the communication network and transmitting and receiving speech signals.

44. The image information transmitting system as defined in any one of claims 29, 30 and 36, further comprising a power-conservation mode setting device which sets a power-conservation mode in which power consumption of the image information transmitting apparatus is reduced, the power-conservation mode setting device canceling the power-conservation mode when the communicating device receives information from the image information receiving apparatus while the power-conservation mode is set.

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